

in the U.S. Congress. Having served in the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2004 and later in the Senate from 2005 until his retirement in 2019, Senator Isakson has dedicated himself to supporting longstanding, bipartisan measures. His ability to find common ground and his commitment to public service are a reflection of his adherence to Georgians' and our Nation's values. It is my honor to have served alongside Senator Isakson during the 116th Congress.

In his tenure, Senator Isakson sponsored over 130 bills—a testament to his determination and aptitude to work across party lines. Having served in the Georgia Air National Guard, Senator Isakson played a key role in passing salient legislation to aid our veterans. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he led the Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Improvement Act of 2017, which created opportunities for veterans to pursue higher education. I am proud to have cosponsored this bill in my first year in office and to have worked with Senator Isakson to unite Congress in support of our veterans, among many other bipartisan causes led by Johnny.

Senator Isakson's time in office has left a profound mark in the Halls of Congress. I am confident his courage, compassion, and celebrated accomplishments will be remembered for years to come. I thank Senator Isakson for his service and send my best wishes to him and his wife Dianne and their children, Kevin, Julie, and John.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to honor someone whom I have had the good fortune to serve alongside both in the House and the Senate.

In American political history, there are certain names that carry a legacy. There are the Roosevelts, a family of great means who nonetheless understood the deeply personal pain of the Great Depression and helped bring a nation through it. There are the Kennedys, a family that for generations has been near the center of American power and popular culture.

And there are the Udalls.

Now, the Udalls have never been flashy. They might not be the equivalent of political royalty. You are more likely to find Udalls in cowboy boots and jeans than expensive suits. But they are a family that is deeply devoted to public service, protecting the people and places of the West, and just being some of the kindest, hardest-working, most decent folks you could ever meet.

Senator TOM UDALL has certainly lived up to his family's legacy during his long career in public service. New Mexico is so fortunate to be represented by him, and I feel so fortunate to have him as a friend.

TOM, it has been such a pleasure to work with you on issues including pro-

tecting funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, ensuring that our community health centers receive full funding, strengthening rural communities, and improving services for our veterans and our work together on TSCA reform. I have been so impressed by your work on clean energy and on protecting the wild places that make our States so special—and, of course, your important work on reforming the Senate. And I am so grateful for your strong leadership on the Indian Affairs Committee and your hard work on behalf of our Nation's Tribes. You have also set yourself apart through your work on foreign relations and on keeping our Nation safe.

I will never forget our trip to Vietnam and South Korea last year. It was such a special moment when Jill organized a Passover Seder for everyone on our plane to Ho Chi Minh City. It brought everyone together to focus on our common humanity and what we are each called to do: serve others.

Whatever the future holds for you, I have no doubt that you will continue serving the people of New Mexico and this great Nation. Public service, that is what Udalls do.

TOM, congratulations on your retirement, and thank you for a job well done. You have been a true blessing to New Mexico and our Nation.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor my colleague and good friend, Senator TOM UDALL, who will be retiring from the Senate at the end of this Congress. TOM has been a forceful advocate for the people of New Mexico, a champion for all Americans, and a guardian of our Nation's public lands and our democracy. It has been my privilege to partner with him, both in the House and Senate, over the past 17 years.

TOM's family roots were grown from American history. Generations ago, his ancestors traveled west and settled on the American frontier. Although centuries have passed since those early pioneers, TOM's deep connection to our country's rich history hasn't waned. He holds deep respect for the communities that treasured the American landscape long before his family arrived, and TOM has championed the cause of Tribal sovereignty throughout his career. As vice chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, he fought to ensure that our country fulfills its obligations to indigenous Tribes. His commitment to this cause reminds us, as lawmakers, that the government has a responsibility to respect the rights of all communities from coast to coast.

His personal link to the American experiment has also nourished a passion for conserving our natural inheritance. In the House, I was proud to work with him on bolstering our Nation's renewable energy infrastructure. In the Senate, I have been privileged to serve with him on the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment. He has been an advocate for supporting the Chesapeake Bay in my

home State of Maryland and helped us secure a historic increase in funding to the Chesapeake Bay Program. Senator UDALL's pioneering work in these arenas has rallied colleagues around the cause of protecting our environment, culminating this August with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. His tireless efforts to preserve America's natural heritage will live on through the clean water and clean air that he helped safeguard for generations to come. But TOM knew well that preserving our environment must go hand-in-hand with defending our planet against climate change. His landmark bill on renewable energy standards offers a model for the type of rigorous approach we can take to cut carbon emissions and address this global threat.

Senator UDALL's commitment to keeping our planet healthy has been equal in force to his mission of keeping our democracy healthy. Throughout his career, TOM promoted the notion that we need structural change in our institutions if we want to move our country forward. He and I worked together on campaign finance reform to help insulate our elections from the influence of special interests and big corporations and have fought to reform financing for Presidential elections and the FEC. In Washington, he has been a vocal critic of government inaction and proposed rule fixes to remedy congressional paralysis, both while in the minority and in the majority. His calls for change have challenged this body to act on institutional adjustments that could help us get more done for the American people.

But beyond these achievements, one of TOM's greatest contributions to the Senate is the way in which he has made this Chamber a kinder place. His warm temperament and humble nature exemplify the character of a true public servant—someone who is here to do good work on behalf of their constituents, not stroke their own ego. He has stayed grounded and honored those whom he serves, always looking to move our country forward. In his farewell address, Senator UDALL reminded us that disagreements in politics shouldn't get in the way of progress. TOM lives and breathes this bedrock principle and has always extended a hand to those across the aisle in order to deliver for the American people. Although he is now headed back West to return to the place that made him, he is leaving a lasting legacy of collaboration and success that cannot be undone.

Thank you, TOM, for your dedication to this body and to our country, and I wish you and your family the best in the years ahead.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator UDALL, for his years of leadership in the Senate, on our committee, and for his commitment and service to